WHISTLE!

SHONEN JUMP GRAPHIC NOVEL

Story & Art by

Daisuke Higuchi

volume 8

WHISTLE!™

Vol. 8
RAIN CATS AND DOGS

STAGE.63
Never Ending
7

STAGE.64
Dark Clouds
33

STAGE.65
Breaking Off
55

STAGE.66
Residue
77

STAGE.67
Entering the Rainy Season
(RAIN CATS AND DOGS)
99

STAGE.68
Tatsuya Takes a Hit Like a Karate Chop
119

STAGE.69
Position Change
139

STAGE.70
State of Heart, State of Sky
163

STAGE.71
First Half Over
183

...WE'LL KEEP RUNNING!

IT DOESN'T MEAN WE LOST THE GAME!

...BLOWN...

UNTIL I HEAR THE WHISTLE...

DASH

DASH

WHAT'RE THEY GONNA DO IF THE REFEREE ALLOWS ONE MORE PLAY?

IN A SEC, THEY'LL HEAR THE WHISTLE ...

THIS IS IDIOTIC! WHY IS JOSUI RUNNING ?!

...THEY DON'T EVEN CARE WHO WINS.

AT THIS POINT...

STAGE.63

Never Ending

TWEEEEEEEEEE

...GIVING EVERYTHING THEY'VE GOT...

...TO THE VERY END, THAT'S ALL.

TWEE

THEY'RE JUST...

...I DON'T FEEL THAT BAD, EVEN THOUGH WE LOST.

YOU MAY NOT BELIEVE IT, BUT ...

... WHY THE LONG FACE?

OR I SHOULDN'T HAVE ANY REGRETS, BUT...

...I HAVE NO REGRETS.

THAT'S WHY...

WE PLAYED OUR BEST SOCCER.

WE GAVE IT OUR BEST SHOT.

GAME OVER!! 2 TO 1!

JOSUI BEATS IWA TECH!

IT'S OVER...

OUR LAST SEASON...

JOSUI

JOSUI

9

HIRO-YOSHI.

WE WON!

HIRO-YOSHI !!

GRAB

SLAP

JOSUI

WE WON?

JOSUI

...WHY ...

WHY CAN'T I STOP MY TEARS?

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

AS LONG AS WE HAVE ANY STRENGTH LEFT IN US...

... WE'LL WIN.

...WANTED TO TELL ME LAST NIGHT...

I SEE. THIS IS WHAT SHŌ...

YES.

TRY TO KEEP WINNING... FOR US, TOO.

...BUT IF WE WIN, WE STRUGGLE ON. THAT PASSION...

ONCE WE LOSE, THAT'S WHERE IT ENDS...

4

WINNING THIS DIFFICULT MATCH...

THE FIRST VICTORY ...

YUP.

I WAS ON PINS AND NEEDLES ALL THE WAY THROUGH.

...SO IT'S OVER.

...TO BATTLE THROUGH THE LONG TOURNAMENT AHEAD OF THEM...

...WILL PUT THEM IN THE RIGHT FRAME OF MIND...

CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP

THANK YOU!

YOU DID IT, DUDE!

PROUD OF YOU, MAN!

YOU DOG!

TOSUI

... HEH HEH!

I'M GLAD I DIDN'T RUN AWAY.

HEH ...

DUDE!

WILL YOU STOP THAT ?!

C'MON, GET FIRED UP!

OUCH.

...TO WIN...

...AFTER OVERCOMING ADVERSITY.

IF I HAD... I WOULDN'T HAVE KNOWN HOW GREAT IT FEELS...

WAAH!

MY, UM, LACHRYMAL GLANDS HAVE WEAKENED WITH AGE ...

OH YES.

SIR?

YOU PLAYED A FANTASTIC GAME.

I'M LUCKY TO HAVE WONDERFUL STUDENTS LIKE YOU.

YOU SHOULD BE PROUD.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

I'VE GOTTA THANK HIM...

AH ...

ER...

GLEAM

TAP

SU

AH HA HA

ARE YOU STILL CRYING?

...

IS HE THAT HAPPY?

WAH! WAH!

SUI

SKRRD

YAHH!

LETTER OF RESIGNATION.

I...I'M COMING.

WHAT'RE YOU DOING? WANNA GET LEFT BEHIND?

HIRO-YOSHI!

YES.

WILL YOU WAIT A SEC?!

RUSH

WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

HIROYOSHI GETS THE MESSAGE.

NOTHING. JUST TALKING TO MYSELF.

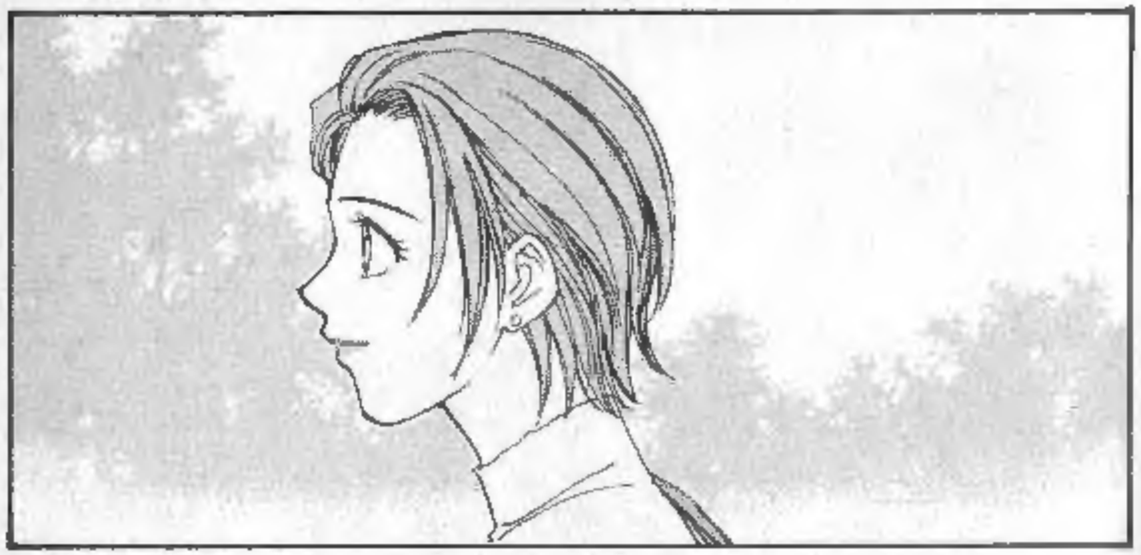
WANNA GET A BURGER?

SOUNDS GOOD.

I'M STARVING.

OKAY, LET'S GO HOME!

READ THIS WAY



From Stage 63 to 64

Prologue ▷ Dark Clouds

ZOINK!
WHO'S THAT HOT WOMAN?
OH.
MASATO.
YOU DID IT! CHOP OFF THE OLD BLOCK!
URP
MOM. AND DAD, TOO.
LOOKS JUST LIKE HIS DAD
GLEEM
TACCHAN JRM. TATSUYA, S THIS YOUR SISTER?
MOTHER.
I MEAN.
ABSOLUTELY.
THAT'S NOT NICE AFTER I CAME TO WATCH THE GAME, HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT?!
WHY DID YOU COME HERE? IT'S EMBARRASSING.
TATSUYA, WHY ARE YOU SHOUTING LIKE THAT?
LALALA
AH, I'M TATSUYA'S

?
SHŌ!
LONG TIME NO SEE! YOU DID IT, SHŌ!
TOMO-YUKI!
TACCHAN!
SHŌ'S BUDDY FROM MUSASHINOMORI. REMEMBER, HE SHOWED UP WHEN WE PLAYED AGAINST THEM?
WHO'S HE?
OH YEAH. THAT GUY
RIGHT AFTER THE GAME STARTED.
WHEN DID YOU GET HERE?

THAT GORGEOUS WOMAN IS YER MOM, AND THAT COOL OLD DUDE AT MUSASHI-NOMORI IS YER DAD?!

I ENVY YOU, TATSUYA

NO WAY!! THAT HOTTIE IS YER MOM?

THIS IS WHY I DIDN'T WANT HER HERE

YAH YAH

CHATTER

WHAAT ?!

M-MOTHER ?!?

BRO!

OH, HOW VERY NICE OF YOU THANK YOU.

MY BUSINESS CARD

THIS MUST BE K SMET. PLEASE COME BY FOR A VISIT F YOU LIKE

HEH, DIDN'T REALIZE YOU'RE A MARRIED WOMAN I HAVE MUCH TO LEARN

PLEASE BACK OFF, KAZA-MATSURI.

WHAT'S GOING ON?

WHAT'S GOING ON?

W'LL YOU NOT CONDUCT YOUR "BUSINESS" HERE?

SIZZLE

I'M SORRY MOM DOESN'T MEAN TO INSULT YOU OR ANYTHING

ER.. I...

BOW

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR ALWAYS LOOKING AFTER MY SON.

OH, COACH?

HELLO, COACH KATOR

DON'T UPSET YOUR GORGEOUS SISTER.

MEN MUST BE GENTLE TO WOMEN.

I'M FLATTERED, BUT...

G... GORGEOUS? OH DEAR..

SHO'S BROTHER I THINK.

WHO'S THAT?

E...EASY BRO!

WHOA!

I'M HIS *MOTHER.* ♡

...I'M NOT TATSUYA'S SISTER...

READ THIS WAY

I MEAN

WHAT? WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

SO, IS IT TRUE?

I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT KNOW BETTER SINCE YOU'RE HIS TEAM-MATE

WHA ...?

THE STORY ABOUT TATSUYA COMING TO MUSASHI NOMORI

IS THAT TRUE?

NO WAY?!

HOW ABOUT YOU ALL COME BY OUR HOUSE?

I CAN'T TALK HERE ..

WHAT?

HEY, SANTA

I'LL COME

I LIKE HAVING PEOPLE OVER

WHAT? YOU MEAN IT?

AKIRA, WHO HOLDS THE SAME POSITION, IS TOTALLY FURIOUS ABOUT IT

IT'S BEEN THE HOT TOPIC AT SOCCER PRACTICE

STAGE.64 Dark Clouds

◆ A few words from Daisuke Higuchi ◆

IN VOLUME 7, IN THE CHARACTER PROFILES, THE NAMES OF THE TWO PLAYERS FROM IWA TECH WERE MISSING. I'M SORRY. THEY'RE ***SATORU OGATA*** AND ***MASASHI HAYANO***. AND, A WORD ON THE VOLUME TITLE. I'VE BORROWED TITLES FROM MY FAVORITE SONGS OR USED SOME SOCCER TERMS SO FAR, BUT THIS TIME, I TRIED SOMETHING DIFFERENT. "RAINING CATS AND DOGS" MEANS "POURING RAIN."

BANG

DON'T LOOK IN MY ROOM!

STOP TOUCHING EVERY-THING!

WHOA!

A HUMONGOUS BATHROOM

WILL YOU STOP SNOOPING ALL OVER THE PLACE?

YOU GUYS SHOULD BE ASHAMED.

WHO'S MAKING ME ACT THAT WAY?

WHINE WHINE

YOU'RE SO UPTIGHT

CHILL OUT ABOUT THE HOUSE

WOW. ♡

HE'S ALWAYS BEEN A LONE WOLF

WOULD'VE BEEN NICE IF SHIGEKI CAME.

PLEASE COME ON IN.

THIS IS MY PLACE ...

MIZUNO

A FEW OF US DECIDED TO COME OVER.

I'M JEALOUS. A B.G HOUSE AND A SEXY MOM

OOOHH!

RITZY!

WOW! IT'S HUGE!

HOLMES

WHAT'S HIS NAME?

HE'S WEARING A SCARF. HOW CUTE! ♡

JOLT

RUFF.

YOUR DOG LIVES INSIDE THE HOUSE! DECADENT!

WHEW, AWE-SOME!

KLICK

A BUNCH OF SQUIRTS.

WHAT'S THIS?

GEEZ.

THESE KIDS ARE ALL FROM TATSUYA'S SOCCER TEAM.

INCREDIBLE! TWO MORE BABES!

BUT THEY'RE KINDA OLD

HI, TAKA. HI, YURI.

NOOOO, WOULDN'T CALL YOU THAT, TAKAKO.

DID YOU JUST CALL ME AN "OLD AUNTIE," TACCHAN?

IN OTHER WORDS, THEY'RE MY MOM'S OLDER AND YOUNGER SISTERS.

AUNT TAKAKO AND AUNT YURIKO.

WHO'RE THEY?

IT'S BAD ENOUGH THAT I HAVE TO WORK ON SUNDAY NOW I GET TO COME HOME TO A DAYCARE CENTER.

LET'S EAT!

I'M STARVING

LOOKS DELICIOUS ♡

WHAT A SPREAD.

THERE'S PLENTY, SO DIG IN, BOYS.

WE'RE HOME! AND I'M STARVING.

NO THERE'RE NO MORE. IN FACT

TATSUYA, IS IT JUST YOU, YOUR MOM AND YOUR GRANDMA THAT LIVE TOGETHER?

THIS IS REALLY NICE. ♡

YUM YUM

NO, IT'S JUST A RUMOR!

BUT SUPPOSEDLY IT'S SOLID INFORMATION

WHAT?

THIS IS THE FIRST I'VE HEARD OF IT

WHA ...?

LOOK, TATSUYA HASN'T SAID A WORD TO US!

THAT'S WHY I CAN'T BELIEVE IT'S TRUE.

YOU TRUST TATSUYA.

YOU TRUST HIM.

I GUESS ..

SHŌ ...

WHY DON'T YOU STAY OVER TONIGHT? YOU CAN SLEEP IN MY ROOM, LIKE A PET. ♡

WHAT'S YOUR NAME LITTLE FELLA? HOW OLD ARE YOU?

YIKE!

HEH.

NO WAY!

HE'S SO TINY AND CUTE! ♡

YURIKO TEACHES AT A FASHION DESIGN SCHOOL

SO, TAKAKO IS A SALES-CLERK IN THE DEPARTMENT STORE'S COSMETIC SECTION, AND.

YOU'RE BOTH BUSY CAREER WOMEN, THEN.

SOME-THING LIKE THAT

HEY.

HE'S TIGHT!

SWAT

C'MON, YOU'RE A GROWNUP. DON'T TEASE A KID IN ☆ JUNIOR HIGH!

IS IT TRUE THAT TATSUYA IS TRANSFERRING TO MUSASHI-NOMORI?

SHUT UP, PUNK!

THEY'RE A HANDFUL THAT'S WHY THEY'RE BOTH SINGLE

OR HAPPY, I WOULD SAY. I JUST HAVE MY BROTHER.

IT'S NO WONDER YOU GET ON WELL WITH WOMEN.

A HOUSE FULL OF WOMEN IS NOISY ISN'T IT?

WHAT A WEIRD KID!

WA HA HA HA

...IT WAS FUN, HUH?

YUP.

... TODAY'S GAME. IT WAS CLOSE, BUT...

IWA TECH REMINDED ME OF US WHEN WE FOUGHT AGAINST MUSASHI NOMORI DURING THE SPRING CHAMPIONSHIP.

THEY STOPPED ATTACK AFTER ATTACK, AND THEY LAUNCHED THEIR COUNTER STRIKE

. WE'VE GOT GAPS IN OUR SKILL LEVELS. AND WE HAVE DIFFERENT LEVELS OF PASSION FOR THE GAME.

A REGULAR PUBLIC JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL TEAM UNLIKE SOME FAMOUS PRIVATE SCHOOL

WE'RE A GOOD TEAM TOO

IWA TECH WAS A GOOD TEAM, BUT

BUT .WHERE DID THAT RUMOR COME FROM?

SORRY TO MAKE YOU UPSET

CRUNCH

IT'S OKAY

SORRY 'BOUT THAT I BET I MIS-HEARD

SORRY JUST FORGET WHAT I SAID

WHERE'S TATSUYA?

HMM?

I'VE GOT A BAD FEELING

YO.

I LOVE THIS TEAM.

I LOVE SOCCER.

.. I MAY NOT...HAVE BEEN ABLE TO FEEL THIS WAY. I WOULD HAVE BEEN BITTER.

IF YOU DIDN'T COME TO JOSUI ...

THANKS

THAT'S WHY...

...WHEN OUR PLAY CONNECTS AND WE SCORE...

... THAT JOY CAN'T BE EXPERIENCED ANYWHERE ELSE.

MUST...ESCAPE!

HEY, WAIT!

WURF WURF

WHAT'S THAT?

HMM?

TATSUYA, IN FACT

I DIDN'T DO ANY-THING.

HOLMES!

WHUMP

WAAH!

CAN'T BELIEVE HE'S GOTTEN SO ATTACHED TO YOU.

THANKS FOR TAKING HIM ON A WALK WITH ME

SNUFF SNUFF

NO PROBLEM.

SEE YOU TOMORROW

THANK YOU FOR HAVING US.

THANK YOU FOR THE DINNER

STOP IT

WAPP

I LIKE DOGS ANY-WAY

OUCH.

WURF

YEAH, RIGHT!

NO, WE'RE NOT SCREWING AROUND WE'RE PLAYING WITH HIM.

QUIT SCREWING AROUND WITH MY DOG!

WOOF

BUT.

. WHAT ABOUT AKIRA, WHO PLAYS THE SAME POSITION?

TOO LATE FOR THE TOKYO CHAMPION-SHIP .BUT NOT THE NATIONAL CHAMPION-SHIP

EVEN IF HE TRANSFERS, IT'S TOO LATE TO REGISTER HIM FOR THE SUMMER CHAMPION-SHIP.

YOU'LL GET TATSUYA MIZUNO TO TRANSFER SCHOOLS?

TATSUYA WILL BE NO. 10!

I'LL HAVE HIM MOVED TO SUB-STITUTE.

DOES HE KNOW HOW HARD I'VE WORKED TO KEEP THE NO 10 POSITION HERE?!

I'M NO. 10 OF MUSASHI-NOMORI!

THAT'S A JOKE!

CRNCH

TATSUYA MIZUNO!

WHAT DID YOU SAY?

I DECIDED TO PAY YOU A VISIT, BUT I GOT LOST.

HOW LUCKY! I BUMPED INTO THE VERY PERSON I WANTED TO SEE

ER, NOT SURE IF I CAN TALK HERE

GLANCE

WHAT DO YOU WANT?

ME?

NO. I MEAN YOU.

YOU MEAN, SHŌ?

BUT HE DOESN'T LOOK LIKE IT WHAT'S HE THINKING?

SOMETHING'S NOT RIGHT TOMOYUKI TOLD ME AKIRA WAS UPSET

LET ME ASK YOU THEN.

OKAY

TATSUYA!

WHY NOT?

WE DON'T KEEP SECRETS AT JOSUI.

SNEER

TATSUYA MIZUNO!

FORGET IT!

I DON'T CARE IF HE'S OUR COACH'S SON.

I WILL NOT BOW OUT THAT EASILY!

WHAT?

AK RA FROM MUSASHI-NOMORI?

HEY.

AH.

WHIP

THAT GUY.

HUH?

I THOUGHT SO, TOO. HOW COULD THAT POSSIBLY WORK?

OKAY. OF COURSE.

IT'S TERRIBLE

I SOMETIMES FEEL LIKE TALKING BACK TO HIM.

WE'RE NOT HIS PUPPETS. DON'T WE HAVE THE RIGHT TO PLAY THE WAY WE WANT?

BUT COACH IS A TYRANT

I UNDERSTAND HOW YOU FEEL

COACH JUST *DOES WHATEVER HE LIKES.*

HE REALLY DOESN'T CARE WHETHER THE PLAYERS LIKE IT OR NOT.

...IS THAT TRUE?

IT'S ABOUT YOU TRANSFERRING TO MUSASHINOMORI.

COACH KIRIHARA.

WHO TOLD YOU THAT?

WHO..

OF COURSE NOT!

THEN YOU'RE NOT TRANSFERRING?

IT'S TRUE...

BUT MY ANSWER THEN WAS A FLAT "NO"!

...HE'S ASKED ME TO COME BACK BEFORE.

WOOF WOOF WOOF

WHERE'RE YOU GOING?

WAIT!

TATSUYA!

PIECE O'CAKE!

PRRRRRR

THAT FASCIST!

HE'S YOUR FATHER AFTER ALL. I SHOULDN'T BE BAD MOUTHING

HEH, SORRY

...IS HE GOING TO TAKE THIS? HE'S MEDDLING IN MY LIFE!

HOW FAR...

HOW-EVER IT TURNS OUT, TATSUYA WILL BE HURTIN' AT THE END OF IT.

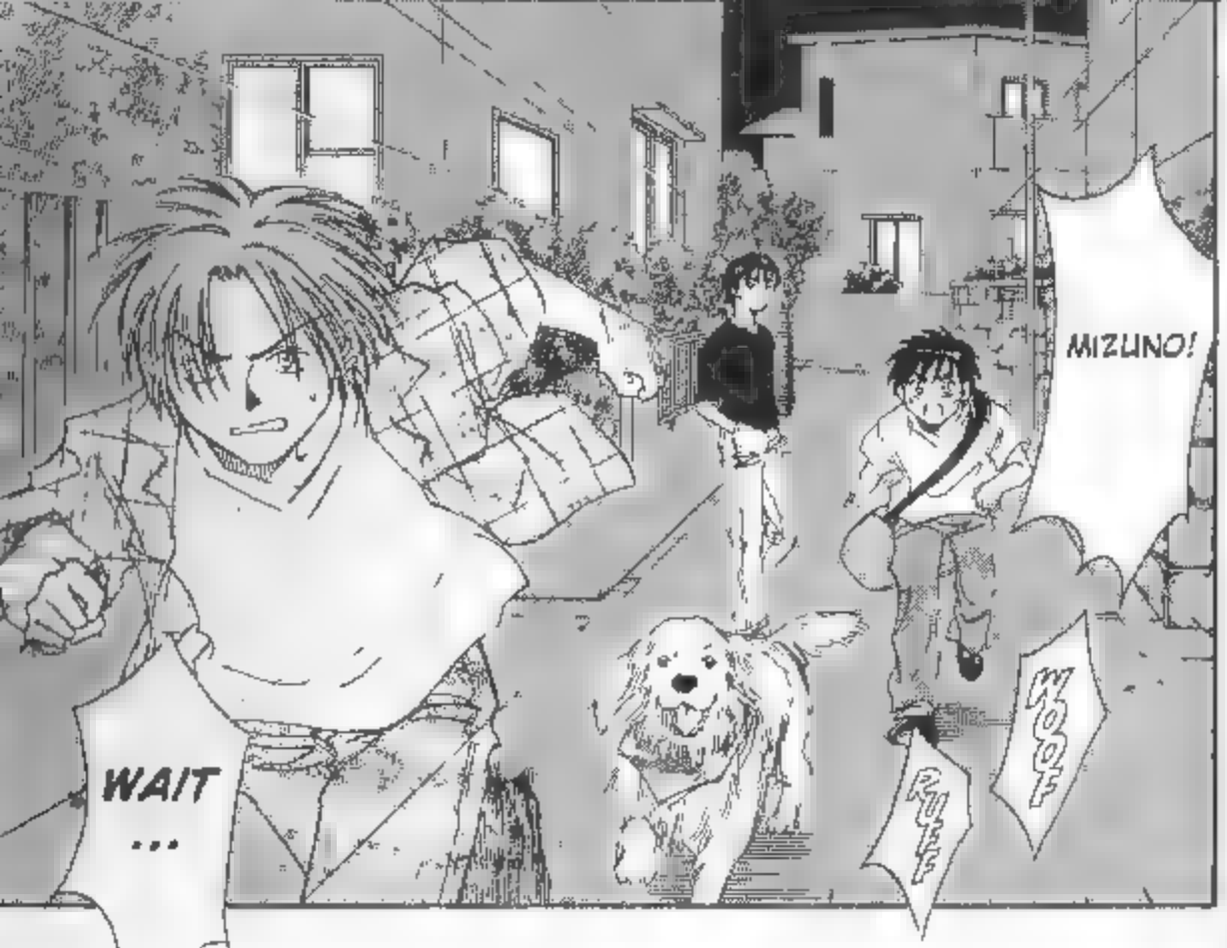
DESTROY MY PRIDE, AND YOU'LL SUFFER THE CONSE-QUENCES!!

THAT SHOULD CAUSE A RIFT BETWEEN TATSUYA AND COACH!

TATSUYA!

WOOF

IT'S UNFORGIV-ABLE!



STAGE.65 Breaking Off

WHISTLE!

I WILL NOT STAY SILENT WHEN MY POSITION IS BEING PULLED OUT FROM UNDER ME!

WHO CARES IF HE'S COACH'S PRECIOUS SON!

IT'S IDIOTIC!

WHEN HE GETS BACK, TRY TO CONSOLE HIM, BUDDY HE'S YOUR TEAMMATE, AFTER ALL.

THEN...

AKRA.

THE RUMOR IS TRUE, AND COACH KRIHARA STARTED IT HIMSELF.

HUFF

WHAT SHOULD I DO..?

HUFF

HUFF

SNORT

THEY'RE NOT ON GOOD TERMS TO BEGIN WITH, SO THIS MIGHT TOTALLY LIGHT THE FUSE

IF THIS TURNS INTO A BIG FIGHT, IT'D BE GREAT.

HEH HEH HEH

SETTING TATSUYA AGAINST THE COACH ON PURPOSE LIKE THAT, WHAT'S THE POINT?

DING

HE DID IT ON PURPOSE!

HURTING OTHERS?

YOU DON'T MIND HURTING OTHERS?

YOU...

YOU USED TO GO TO MUSASHINOMORI. YOU KNOW WHAT A FEAT THAT IS!

IF HE DOES, WHAT WAS THE POINT OF THE TWO-AND-A-HALF YEARS I SPENT WINNING THAT POSITION?

WHY SHOULD TATSUYA, WITH NO TRACK RECORD BECOME NO. 10 ON MUSASHINOMORI?

I'M THE ONE WHO'S BEEN HURT!

I'VE ALREADY REJECTED YOUR OFFER.

DON'T TRY TO FORCE YOUR PLAN ON ME! HOW DARE YOU?

I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF YOUR ARROGANT SCHEMING!

TATSUYA'S ALREADY INSIDE?

PEEP

OH NO!

WHAT SHOULD I DO?

TATSUYA?!

IGNORING THEIR CHILDREN'S WISHES IS THAT WHAT FATHERS DO?

HMM, DEAR OLD DAD?

TATS-UYA...

HOW DARE *YOU* TALK TO YOUR FATHER THAT WAY?

SHUT YOUR MOUTH, FOR A CHANGE, AND LISTEN TO AN ADULT!

DON'T TALK AS IF YOU UNDERSTAND EVERYTHING!

IT SEEMED LIKE THEY'D GOTTEN PAST ALL THIS FIGHTING..

IF THEIR RELATIONSHIP BREAKS DOWN NOW, THEY MAY NEVER REPAIR IT.

I RAN FOR 20 MINUTES, SO WHERE IS HE?

SCAN SCAN

I'VE GOT TO STOP HIM BEFORE HE CONFRONTS COACH KIRIHARA.

LOST HIM.

HOLMES?

WOOF WOOF

I UNDERSTAND HOW AKIRA FEELS, BUT

.THIS TACTIC IS STONE COLD.

KIRIHARA

THIS IS IT.

HERE?

HUH?

W... WHAT SHOULD I DO? I JUST BLUNDERED IN HERE, BUT. I.

WHO'S THE FOOL?

I THOUGHT YOU WANTED TO BECOME A PROFESSIONAL PLAYER.

IDIOT!

ONLY A FOOL MAKES EMOTIONAL DECISIONS.

ADULT? WHO'S ACTING LIKE AN ADULT?

THIS IS ALL ABOUT YOU... WHAT YOU WANT.

PUTTING ME ON MUSASHI-NOMORI NOW? NO ONE ON THE TEAM WOULD ACCEPT THAT!

YOU'RE BETTER THAN AKIRA, THAT'S WHY I'M BRINGING YOU IN! WHAT'S WRONG WITH THAT?

THE BEST AND THE STRONG WILL WIN THEIR SPOTS. THAT'S HOW THE WORLD WORKS!

IF YOU STAY AT JOSUI, YOU'D BETTER GIVE UP ON THAT IDEA. NO ONE WILL WANT YOU.

SO..

...WHAT?

ABOVE ALL, I *ABSOLUTELY DON'T LIKE YOU!!*

I LIKE JOSUI! I HAVE NO INTEREST IN MUSASHINOMORI OR JOINING ITS *"ELITE"* TEAM.

WHAT'S WRONG WITH *THAT? EVERY-THING!*

...AND MOLD YOU INTO A SUPER-STAR.

I CAN STILL *GUIDE YOU...*

IT'S NOT TOO LATE. YET

, YOU SHOULD COME TO MUSASHI-NOMORI! PLEASE, TATSUYA!

I DON'T WANT TO SEE YOUR TALENT WITHER AWAY BEFORE MY VERY EYES.

THAT'S WHY ..

IF I HAVE YOU, THE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP WILL BE WITHIN OUR GRASP!

IT'S *ENVIRONMENT* THAT CREATES EXCELLENCE!

WHAT ...?

AS LONG AS YOU REMAIN ON A MEDIOCRE TEAM LIKE JOSUI...

...YOU WON'T POLISH YOUR TALENT. YOU'LL LET IT *RUST!*

RIGHT NOW IS A *CRITICAL TIME* FOR YOU AS A SOCCER PLAYER.

YOU HAVE *NO IDEA* WHAT'S GOOD FOR YOU.

IF I DIDN'T PLAY SOCCER...

...WOULD YOU STILL WANT ME AS YOUR SON?

TATS-UYA...

YOU GET WHAT I'M SAYING.

...

TATS-UYA!

..CAN I ASK YOU A QUESTION?

IF...

WHAT?

TATSUYA KIDAHARA, THE TALENTED SOCCER PLAYER.

ME, TATSUYA MIZUNO, BUT RATHER,

GOODBYE.

ANSWER ME!

WHAT A RIDICULOUS

IT WAS INEVITABLE THAT MY SON WOULD PLAY SOCCER

THAT'S MY ANSWER. ARE YOU SATISFIED?

WHOOSH

TATSUYA

TATSUYA

YOU DON'T WANT A CHILD WHO ISN'T A SOCCER PLAYER

YOU DON'T WANT...

IN OTHER WORDS

WOW, THANKS!

IS THAT RIGHT? THEN YOU'RE GOING TO NEED ONE OF THESE.

TRY THIS MOVE.

OKAY!

THAT'S GREAT TATSUYA

LOOK, DAD! I CAN JUGGLE!

.. EVEN THOUGH HE'S IN SECOND GRADE, TATSUYA IS THRIVING. IN FACT, I'M WORRIED ABOUT THE OTHERS.

TATSUYA IS INCREDIBLE. OUR TEAM ADMITS FOURTH GRADERS AND UP, BUT...

UNGH.

NOT AGAIN ..

WAIT!

WAIT! TATSUYA ..

MY MEDICINE..

DAD ...

...A SOCCER PLAYER LIKE YOU.

...I WANT TO BECOME ...

YOU KNOW ...

SHŌ ?!

AH ...

I MEAN...

WHY'RE YOU HERE?

I WAS WORRIED

I'M SORRY, I DIDN'T INTEND TO.

WOR-RIED?

... LISTENING THE ENTIRE TIME?

...WERE YOU...

SLAP

TATS-UYA!

DAD.

DON'T THINK! OBEY!

WHO TOLD YOU TO MAKE THAT PLAY?

DAD.

SHRRR

I WILL TRAIN YOU TO BECOME A WORLD-CLASS SOCCER PLAYER.

JUST DO EXACTLY WHAT I SAY!

...

WOOF

KA

LANG

THUD

STUPID! THOUGHTLESS! WHAT HAVE I DONE?

I ONLY MADE THINGS WORSE!

CRAK

I WON'T GO TO MUSASHI-NOMORI...

REST ASSURED.

...I'D RATHER BE *DEAD!*

COACH?

WOOO WOOO

WHAT?

...D... DON'T HAVE ...TIME.

...I DON'T ...HAVE TIME...

... TATSUYA.

CREEP

WHAT WAS THAT?

!

HOLD ON!

COACH!

OH NO. BLOOD!

COACH ?!

STAGE.66
Residue

DID SOME-THING HAPPEN?

... YOU'VE BEEN ACTING WEIRD SINCE THIS MORNING.

LET'S GO THEN.

SWAT

OKAY THEN.

NO. NOTHING

SOME-THING

2 — B

JABBER JABBER

TATSUYA

PUPPY, PUPPY.

...PY.

PUPPY

WHAM

PUPPY!

YOU HAVE A RARE TALENT SLEEPING WITH YOUR EYES OPEN.

MS KATORI WAS GLARING AT YOU.

AH.

CLASS IS OVER, RIP VAN WINKLE.

WH. - WHAT WAS THAT FOR?

OUCH.

DUDE...

OOOPS

EVEN AFTER PRACTICE STARTED, TATSUYA SEEMS THE SAME AS USUAL

LET'S GO!

TWEE

PUPPY, WANT US TO LEAVE YOU BEHIND?

N... NOPE

...NOTHING HAPPENED YESTERDAY

IT'S AS IF

WHAT'S UP?

HEY, EVERYBODY, LISTEN UP

LET'S CALL IT A DAY

GOOD PRACTICE, COACH.

WHAT?

HEY.

SHŌ.

I HEARD IT WAS A LOT OF FUN YESTERDAY.

I WAS READY TO GET AN EARFUL ABOUT IT ..OR TO BE IGNORED

BECAUSE I EAVESDROPPED YESTERDAY

WHEW

TATSUYA.

HE'S NOT UPSET?

FOR ME, MUSASHI-NOMORI IS *AN OPPONENT I MUST DEFEAT.*

IN OTHER WORDS, THERE'S NO WAY I'D GO TO MUSASHI-NOMORI.

I ONLY TOOK THE TEST TO RUB MY DAD'S NOSE IN IT BECAUSE HE WANTED ME TO COME TO MUSASHI-NOMORI.

WHAT?

BUT I HAD NO INTENTION OF ENROLLING IN THE SCHOOL

ALL RIGHT!

...AND CONTINUE TO WIN THROUGH THE TOURNA-MENT!

WE'VE GOT TO ERASE THE SHAME OF THE SPRING CHAMPION-SHIP

LET'S SET OUR SIGHTS ON MUSASHI-NOMORI...

GOOD.

UNLIKE ME, TATSUYA IS MATURE. HE MUST'VE THOUGHT IT THROUGH AND GOTTEN OVER IT ALREADY

WAS I WORRIED FOR NOTHING?

CAPTAIN'S TOTALLY FOCUSED. EH?

OH.

I DON'T WANT ANY MISUNDER-STANDINGS, SO LET ME CLEAR THE AIR.

WHAT?!?

LIKE I SAID, IT'S A *RUMOR.*

THERE'S A RUMOR THAT I'M TRANSFERRING TO MUSASHI-NOMORI.

I ACTUALLY PASSED MUSASHI-NOMORI'S EXAM.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

CHATTER

FIRST OF ALL, IF I'D WANTED TO, I WOULD'VE DONE THAT LONG AGO

THERE'S NO TRUTH TO IT. I DON'T KNOW WHO STARTED IT, BUT IT'S COMPLETE NONSENSE!

CHATTER

I HAVE A FAVOR TO ASK YOU...

YES?

WHAT?

DON'T TELL HIM ABOUT MY COND.TION.

I'M SORRY

NO MATTER

SO .. YOU HEARD.

DOES TATSUYA KNOW I'M HERE?

NO... NOT YET.

BUT...

I DON'T WANT HIM TO DO WHAT I TELL HIM OUT OF SOME MISGUIDED SYMPATHY.

I DON'T WANT HIM TO FEEL SORRY FOR ME JUST BECAUSE I'M ILL.

ALTHOUGH I M NOT SO SURE IF HE'D EVER SYMPATHIZE WITH ME

...

I WAS WORRIED.

NO, THAT'S NOT H.M.

GOOD

TATSUYA?

WHY'RE YOU HERE?

IS THAT SO?

I WAS WORR ED ABOUT TATSUYA AND FOLLOWED H.M. AND ER. ENDED UP HEARING EVERY-THING

YOU ARE THE ONE WHO TRANSFERRED TO JOSH FROM OUR SCHOOL

I'M TATSUYA'S TEAMMATE, SHŌ.

I'M PRYING

TATSUYA.

AFTER ALL, I'VE DONE THAT BEFORE.

BUT I'D BETTER APOLOGIZE ABOUT EAVES-DROPPING.

SHŌ!

.. I'M SORRY I WAS LAME .. I DIDN'T MEAN TO EAVES-DROP...

WHAT IS IT?

I DON'T WANT TO HEAR ABOUT THAT!

JOLT

ER . ABOUT YESTER-DAY..

YOU PROMISE, RIGHT?

I'LL CHOOSE THE RIGHT TIME TO TELL HIM ABOUT THIS.

COACH.

THANK YOU

YES.

I'LL KEEP MY MOUTH SHUT ABOUT HIS DAD.

IT LOOKS LIKE TATSUYA'S OKAY.

SHŌ, I WANT TO REMAIN FRIENDS.

THAT'S WHY I WANT YOU TO FORGET ABOUT IT.

PAT

DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME.

I DON'T WANT TO THINK ABOUT MY DAD ANYMORE!

I WANT TO TREAT YESTERDAY AS *SOMETHING THAT NEVER HAPPENED !!*

GRAB

WHAT?!

TREATING IT LIKE IT NEVER HAPPENED...

HE JUST WANTS TO FORGET IT?

FOOP

NO ONE HAS MAINTAINED POSSESSION

WE'RE AT THE 10 MINUTE MARK.

JOSUI'S NO. 10 HAS PICKED IT UP!!

SHOOM

WHAT'S THIS?

SOMETHING'S DIFFERENT

HUH?

LET'S FOCUS ON WINNING THE TOURNAMENT

SATURDAY.

ON THE SURFACE, NOTHING HAS CHANGED.

TWEE

JOSUI'S SECOND GAME IN THE DISTRICT TOURNAMENT BEGINS.

I GUESS NO. 10 IS GOING IT ALONE...

WHAT THE ?

I'LL END THAT.

SHOW-BOAT! THINKS HE OWNS THE BALL

KAGA

BOOP

DASH

!

SHIGEKI'S OPEN.

ALL RIGHT!

WHOOSH

SHWOOM

TSK

RRB

GRAB

FUMP

BIP

DASH

DASH

SHOOM

KAGA

2

YOOSH

BIP

VIPP

KAGA

STOMP

HE TOTALLY SCHOOLED 'EM.

TATSUYA'S EN FUEGO

SHREEEK

COOL

TATS-UYA.

THAT MORON!

WHAT'S UP TATSUYA?

THAT'S SOME PRETTY SELFISH PLAY.

...THINGS *HAVE* CHANGED.

LIKE I THOUGHT...

SWAPP

FOOT

DASH

SHOOM

STAGE.67 Entering the Rainy Season (RAIN CATS AND DOGS)

WHISTLE!

FOOSH

GOOOAL!

KAGA

10

STAGE.67 Entering the Rainy Season (RAIN CATS AND DOGS)

WHOOSH

THEY'RE PASSING!

KAGA

STOMP

VIPP

FEINT.

GO AHEAD AND TRY.

10

SHOOM

4

KAGA

YOU DID IT! YOU MADE IT THROUGH ROUND TWO!

WE WON, MS. KATORI!

NO DOUBT, BUT...

HE GETS MY VOTE FOR MVP!

WE OWE THIS TO TATSUYA'S GREAT PLAY.

ROUND TWO HUH? MUST BE SOME KIND OF RECORD FOR JOSH.

...HE WAS TAKING HIS PROBLEMS OUT ON THE BALL.

IT WAS AS IF

TATSUYA MAY AS WELL HAVE BEEN ALONE OUT THERE

TATSUYA.

CRUNCH

HEY.

TWEE TWEE TWEE

GAME OVER!

THAT'S IT, 3 TO 1!!

ROAR

HUFF

CHOKE ON IT, DAD!

YEAH ♥ WE DID IT

ROAR

DEFEATS KAGA JUNIOR HIGH. THEY MOVE ON TO THE THIRD ROUND OF THE DISTRICT TOURNAMENT!!

ROAR

JOSH! ...

ROAR

IS THAT SO?

BUT IF YOU THINK I'M PLAYING TOO FAR UP...

...I'LL BE MORE CAREFUL NEXT TIME, COACH MATSUSHITA.

WHAT?

HEY, SHŌ.

YOU KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENING?

ZIP IT, YOU GUYS!

WE WON, DIDN'T WE?

WHAT'S WRONG WITH THAT?

I DUNNO

I DON'T GET IT.

...

YOU KNOW SOMETHING, DON'T YOU?

THERE'S SOMETHING WEIRD GOING ON WITH TATSUYA RIGHT NOW

WHAT WAS THAT ABOUT?

WHAT HAPPENED OUT THERE TODAY?

THERE WERE A FEW TIMES.

YOU THINK I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING?

YOU WERE ..

THERE'S NOTHING

I THINK IT'S FINE FOR A MIDFIELDER TO ATTACK WHEN HE GETS A GOOD LOOK AT THE GOAL.

I THOUGHT I COULD SCORE THAT'S WHY.

WHY WAS THAT?

...WHEN YOU IGNORED AN EASY PASS, AND WENT STRAIGHT FOR THE GOAL.

SHRIFF

...

DON'T PLAY DUMB.

NOPE.

LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE GOT SOMETHING TO SAY

OKAY.

HOW ABOUT THIS...

BESIDES, I'VE BETRAYED TATSUYA'S TRUST BEFORE.

I PROMISED HIM THAT I WOULDN'T SAY ANYTHING.

SHOULD I STAY QUIET? ABOUT COACH KIRIHARA..

I CAN'T REALLY EXPLAIN IT, BUT

WEIRD.

..THAT DOESN'T MEAN IT WILL THIS TIME.

IT WORKED OUT OKAY THAT TIME, BUT...

IT REMINDED ME. ONCE AGAIN, THAT OUR CAPTAIN IS THE GUY WITH THE ACTUAL SKILLS. HE'S THE ONE WHO MAKES THINGS HAPPEN

IT WAS LIKE OUR CAPTAIN WON THE GAME BY HIMSELF

I AGREE.

I'M NOT ALL THAT HAPPY, EVEN THOUGH WE WON

AMS

...OK

OKAY, LET'S GO!

...!

GRAB

...DID YOU ENJOY THE GAME TODAY?

DUDE...

PFFT

ENJOY-MENT'S GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH IT.

WHAT'RE YOU TALK NG ABOUT? WE HAVE TO WIN

YOU SOUND EXACTLY LIKE YOUR JERK FATHER.

DID YOU NOTICE?

DON'T!

THIS IS BAD.

YOU'RE A REAL BARREL OF LAUGHS TODAY

WE'RE BREAKING APART

!

IT'S ALL WRONG ...

SHŌ, WHAT'RE ...

WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT ME!?

YOU'VE GOT NO IDEA HOW I FEEL!

I KNOW YOU LOVE YOUR FATHER.

THAT'S WHY YOU'RE MAD

WHAT?

I WISH HE WAS DEAD!

THAT OLD FASCIST ?!

FLUSH

TATSUYA, YOU WERE ALONE OUT THERE TODAY!

THIS ISN'T A TEAM!!

SU

AND TATSUYA REALLY DOES CARE ABOUT.

..COACH K RIHARA.

COACH K.R HARA IS..

COACH K RIHARA IS TRYING TO HELP TATSUYA THAT'S WHY HE S PUSHING SO HARD

TH.S IS WRONG

THE SITUATION IS MESSED UP.

THE REASON HE'S FORCING THE TRANSFER ON TATSUYA MUST...HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH HIS ILLNESS

HIS FATHER .S..

TATSUYA'S FATHER IS

YOU ARE!

I'M NOT!

BUT...TAKING IT ONTO THE FIELD IS...

I TOLD YOU NOT TO SAY ANYTHING, SHŌ!

SHUT UP!

BE CAREFUL WHAT YOU WISH FOR!

HE'LL BE GONE. YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO TELL HIM ANYTHING. IS THAT WHAT YOU WANT?

IF HE DIES, IT'S OVER!

AH...

?

?

CALM DOWN WHAT'S THE DEAL?

GRAB

SHŌ

SHŌ!

DASH

FLUSH

SORRY

ER, I..

TA-TSUYA!

WHACK

OSUI

SHUT UP!

AH.

THE RAIN

DRP DRP

SSSHHHHHH

SPLOSH

THIS IS MESSED UP.

I JUST MEANT TO STOP TATSUYA, BUT I ENDED UP PUNCHING HIM.

AM I AN IDIOT? WHAT AM I DOING?

I'M SO ASHAMED.

MS. KATORI

WHAT'S HAPPENING? DIDN'T WE WIN...?

TWITCH.

TWITCH

HEY ...

WHAT'S GOING ON?

YOU PLAY LIKE THAT AGAIN TOMORROW

... YOU'LL BE LOOKING FOR A NEW STRIKER.

WHOA, SCARY WHEN THE QUIET GUYS LOSE IT, THEY SAY. IT'S TERRIFYING

THAT IS SO TRUE

OH WELL, THEY ALSO SAY IF THEY CARE ENOUGH TO BE MAD AT YOU, AT LEAST THEY CARE.

WELL, CAPTAIN.

I'M MESSED UP.

I HAVE TO...

I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO.

SORRY ABOUT THIS

ALL RIGHT, COME ON IN, THEN.

BATTLE

WHAT A PAIN IN THE..

IF YOU WANT TO APOLOGIZE, WHY DON'T YOU GO SEE *HIM?*

TALK TO SHŌ

IT'S STILL LATE AFTERNOON, BUT IT'S ALREADY DARK.

WONDER IF IT'LL CLEAR UP BY TOMORROW

SSSHHHH

草晴書

GEEZ, WHAT AM I, AN ERRAND BOY?

SLIDE

SHIGEKI, WILL YOU PICK UP SOME CIGARETTES?

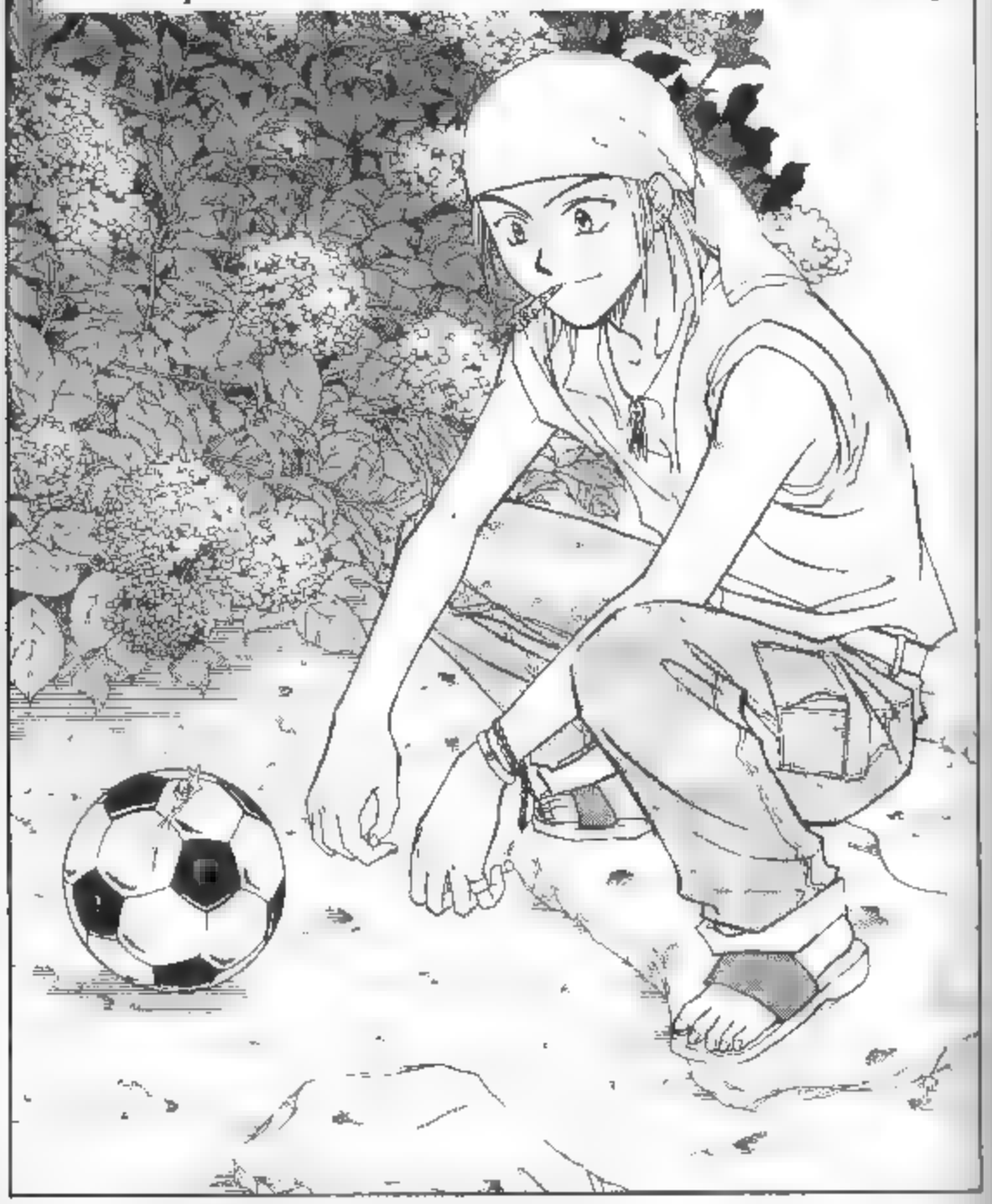
OH, IT'S YOU.

SHIGEKI.

!

STAGE.68

Tatsuya Takes a Hit Like a Karate Chop



WHISTLE!

LET'S KICK BUTT!

THE GAME TOMORROW

YUP.

I WISH WE HAD TIME IF ONLY THE GAME WERE CANCELLED BY THE RAIN. BUT

I DOUBT THAT'LL HAPPEN.

AT A TIME LIKE THIS, WE NEED TO STEP UP AND HELP

SASHHH

DUDE THAT'S GROSS

SHUT UP.

ANYWAY LET'S GET READY FOR TOMORROW BAT WELL PINCH A LOAF AND HIT THE SACK EARLY

SINCE THERE'S NOTHING OBVIOUS TO FIX LIKE THE TEAMWORK ISSUE IT FEELS LIKE A MORE SERIOUS PROBLEM

HMMMM

EASIER SAID THAN DONE I WONDER IF WE'RE GONNA PULL OFF A WIN TOMORROW

OUR TEAM IS EVEN MORE MESSED UP THAN WHEN WE PLAYED AGAINST IWA TEAM OR RATHER

SORRY ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED EARLIER

THANKS FOR BRINGING IT

THIS IS FROM YUKI SHE WANTS YOU TO TAKE ANOTHER LOOK AT THE STATS FOR THE TEAM HE'S AT TOMORROW

AND HERE'S YOUR BAG.

WE WON'T ASK WHAT HAPPENED WITH YOU AND TATSUYA

SHŌ, IF THERE'S ANYTHING WE CAN DO..

BUT DON'T HESITATE TO TALK TO US. WE'RE HERE TO HELP

JUST STAY POSITIVE

DON'T THINK THAT WAY AREN'T WE BUDS? DON'T WORRY ABOUT US

SEE YOU THEN

BUT I DON'T MEAN TO SHUT YOU GUYS OUT AFTER ALL THE HELP YOU'VE BEEN

SHŌ.

THANKS BUT

I CAUSED THIS MESS I'LL WORK IT OUT ON MY OWN SOMEHOW.

I'LL TELL HIM!

I LIKE DSJL'T HAVE INTEREST IN [illegible] 'ELITE' TEAM

HE SUFFERS

HE'S TROUBLED

I WISH HE WAS DEAD!

SO HE REBELS.

WHAT A...

IF HE KNEW HIS FATHER'S CONDITION, HE'D NEVER WISH HIM DEAD

HE DOESN'T KNOW HOW MUCH HIS FATHER CARES

IF THAT'S WHAT TATSUYA WISHES. .

I SHOULD SUPPORT HIM.

BECAUSE

...AND EVEN IF HE CHOOSES MUSASHINOMORI AFTER HE LEARNS HOW HIS FATHER TRULY FEELS

IT'S NOT FOR ME TO DECIDE IT'S TATSUYA'S CHOICE

ONCE I TELL HIM EVERY-THING.

...WE'RE FRIENDS!

BATTLE

WHY DID I ...

...REMAIN SILENT ABOUT COACH KIRIHARA'S ILLNESS?

GRIP

BUT ...THE TRUTH IS...

OR BECAUSE I CAN'T BREAK MY PROMISE?

IS IT BECAUSE HE ASKED ME TO?

SWACK

I'M A SLY ONE!

I KNEW TATSUYA'S TROUBLES...

THE REASON I CLAMMED UP WAS BECAUSE IT WORKED OUT BETTER FOR ME THAT WAY

IF WE DON'T REACH OUT TO EACH OTHER, SOCIETY CAN'T FUNCTION. NO MAN IS AN ISLAND.

BUT ... ...YOU HAVE TO TRY TO HELP.

SMACK

WELL . THEY DO SAY A SMALL KINDNESS CAN BE A BIG PAIN IN THE NECK.

MUTTER

YOU'RE MEDDLESOME

THAT'S WHAT MAKES YOU WHO YOU ARE, ISN'T IT?

...AND CAN'T LEAVE PEOPLE ALONE.

AM I WRONG?

YOU OKAY, SHŌ?

KŌ.

I...

THROB

LOOKS PAINFUL

HEY BRO.

I KNOW I SHOULDN'T BUT I CAN'T HELP IT!

EVEN NOW

IS THERE SOMETHING WRONG WITH ME?

I STICK MY NOSE INTO OTHER PEOPLE'S BUSINESS.

...CAN'T STAND MYSELF SOMETIMES.

I'M A MEDDLER . . AND I'M INSENSITIVE .

I FEEL BAD ABOUT IT, BUT...

...PLAYED LIKE A SELFISH TOOL.

IT'S TRUE. TODAY, I ...

SSSSHHH

THAT'S NOT ..!

I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON BETWEEN YOU AND SHŌ, BUT IT'S GOTTA HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH THAT SCHOOL-TRANSFER THINGY

SLOOSH

HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO KNOW !?

I'M KIND OF EMBARRASSED TO BE BORROWING THIS T-SHIRT OF YOURS.

KEEP IT DOWN!

...IS IT SOMETHING TO GET THAT UPSET OVER?

I LIKE JOSH AND EVERYONE THERE TOO.

NEVER!

EVEN THOUGH YOU LOVE YER DADDY SO MUCH !?

HO HO. IS THAT RIGHT?

AW IT'S HOT

IT'S JUST MY DAD. HE WENT AHEAD WITH THE PAPERWORK ON HIS OWN.

I NEVER EVEN CONSIDERED GOING TO HIS SCHOOL!

...WHO I AM.

BECAUSE THAT'S...

YOU'RE NOT WRONG.

...NO.

I'LL BE RIGHT BACK.

RUSH

DANG, I'M LATE.

HMM?

GOTTA GO, TOO...

WHAT?!

BECAUSE YOU WANT TO REMAIN HIS FRIEND YOU DON'T WANT HIM ASK ABOUT YOUR DAD. HUH!?

LET ME ASK YOU THIS...

HAVE YOU EVER TALKED TO SHŌ THE WAY YOU'RE TALKING TO ME!?

WHAT'S THAT GOT TO DO WITH WHAT'S HAPPENING NOW?

IT'S TRUE, THERE'S A PESKY SIDE TO HIM, BUT HE MEANS WELL. BUT HAVE YOU EVER LEVELED WITH HIM, EVEN ONCE!?

WHAT KINDA FRIENDSHIP IS THAT? YOU PUSHED HIM AWAY BY SAYING YOU DIDN'T WANT TO DEAL WITH H.M.

GRAB

YOU'RE WRONG!

SOMEONE LIKE THAT IS ***BETTER OFF*** AT MUSASHI-NOMORI!!

IT'S THE SAME WITH THE WAY YOU PLAYED TODAY. YOU DIDN'T TRUST ANYONE AROUND YOU, DID YOU? IT PROVES YOU LOOK DOWN ON EVERYONE!

IT'S TIME YOU ACCEPTED IT! YOU'RE JUST LIKE YOUR FATHER.

YOU'RE WRONG!

YOU'RE WRONG!

JERK

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF SHŌ?

DO YOU THINK OF HIM AS YOUR BUDDY?

I DO.

I THINK OF THEM AS MY BUDDIES' WHAT OF IT?

WHAT ABOUT THE OTHERS?

WHAT'S A BUDDY TO YOU?

SOMEONE WHO'S ALWAYS POLITE TO YOU. IS THAT A BUDDY?

SOMEONE WHO IGNORES PROBLEMS THAT SHOULD BE DEALT WITH STRAIGHT ON?

SOMEONE WHO DOESN'T ASK YOU HARD QUESTIONS?

IT'S ALL MY FAULT.

I SEE. THAT GOT YOU FIGHTING

SMACK 2

YOU, TOO DON'T WASTE FOOD

DON'T LAUGH

RATTLE

SPLOOSH

SHIGEKI, THE CIGA... RETTE

SLUMP

SIR?!

CREAK

THE NOODLES ARE GETTING TOO SOFT

OOPS

SMACK

BUT

SLURP

SLURPA-SLURP

SMACK

I MEAN...

GLUG

SMACK

OUCH

SHIGEKI, YOU TOO

TRYING TO ACT COOL AGAIN!?

MMFF

CRUSH

IMPER-TINENCE!!

YOU SURVIVED WITH JUST A MILD BURN CAUSE OF THAT CHROME DOME OF YOURS

HAH HAH HAH

I'M VERY, VERY VERY SORRY

AHGGH! HOT!

RRRRR

THERE'S SOMETHING REALLY BOTHERING YOU, RIGHT?

I LIKE YOUR TROUBLED FACE RIGHT NOW BETTER THAN YOUR POLITE MASK.

YOUR FACE LOOKS GOOD.

IT'S MUCH BETTER THAN BEFORE

GET ANGRY, CRY AND LAUGH. IT'S NORMAL FOR HUMANS TO HAVE SUCH EMOTIONS!

STOP TRYING TO SUPPRESS YOUR HEART

I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT'VE GOTTEN BETTER THAN THE LAST TIME YOU WERE HERE, BUT

THERE'S NO SIDE AT FAULT WHEN IT COMES TO FIGHTING. THERE'S NO LOGIC

WHILE YOU'RE AT AN AGE WHEN YOU CAN EXPRESS YOUR EMOTION HONESTLY, WHY NOT DO SO?

ONCE YOU GROW UP, THERE MAY BE TIMES WHEN YOU MUST SUPPRESS YOUR EMOTION—EVEN WHEN YOU DON'T WANT TO!

WHOOSH

IT'S OKAY TO FIGHT WITH YOUR FRIEND. IT'S OKAY TO FIGHT WITH YOUR PARENTS.

INSTEAD OF TRYING TO COVER IT UP, WHY DON'T YOU FACE UP TO IT.

...DON'T DENY IT ...

...ACCEPT THE WAY YOU FEEL.

...IS, IN A WAY, A FORTUNATE THING.

HAVING SOMEONE YOU CAN FIGHT WITH ...

"LETTO ETTO BOO," OKAY?

HE MEANS, "LET IT BE."

NO! NO!

VOOP

BROOSH

A BRIDGE WILL NOT MAKE BANKS MEET IF IT'S NOT.

THE WIDEST RIVER IS NO OBSTACLE IF IT'S TRUE.

GLOW

IT'S MY FAVORITE POP SINGER.

HMM?

WHAT? IS THAT ZEN?

... IF IT'S YOUR FATE...

WHETHER YOU STRUGGLE OR NOT

IT MEANS, IF IT'S MEANT TO BE, YOU'LL MEET NO MATTER HOW MANY DIFFICULTIES PREVENT YOU FROM MEETING. WHILE IF IT'S NOT MEANT TO BE, NO MATTER HOW HARD YOU TRY, THE ROADS WILL NEVER CROSS.

SHIGEKI!

WHERE'S TATSUYA?

I WENT TO TATSUYA'S HOUSE, AND HIS MOM TOLD ME HE MIGHT BE HERE.

HOW DID YOU FIND THIS PLACE?

WHAT THE. .? IS THIS A BUS STATION?

REALLY?

NAH, I'LL HEAD HOME

WANNA COME N?

IS THAT SO

STOP

HE JUST LEFT YOU DIDN'T SEE HIM?

TSK.

HOO HOO HOO

YOU'RE YOUNG.

HEH

SEE YA.

NOT EVERYONE WOULD DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT

HE TRULY CARES ABOUT YOU

...

BUT YOU KNOW THAT ALREADY, DON'T YOU?

WHEN I WAS ABOUT TO GIVE YOU A BEATDOWN TODAY

SHŌ JUMPED IN BETWEEN US REMEMBER?

STAGE.69

Position Change

YOU'VE BEEN ACTING ODD LATELY. I'M WORRIED ABOUT YOU.

WHERE I'VE BEEN IS NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS!

KATSURŌ !?

DON'T DO ANYTHING STUPID YOU'RE ...

SO WHAT?

DID YOU GO TO SEE TATSUYA MIZUNO?

MUSASHINOMORI PRIVATE SCHOOL

ONE WEEK AGO.

KLUNK

SOCCER TEAM DORMITORY

SNEAK

SKITCH

JOLT

AKIRA.

WHERE DID YOU GO?

IS THIS SHŌ? WHAT'S UP?

KATSURŌ!

THERE'S A PHONE CALL FROM SOMEONE NAMED SHŌ

I DIDN'T KNOW WHO ELSE TO CONTACT.

RIGHT NOW, WE'RE AT THE HOSPITAL, BUT I'M THE ONLY ONE HERE.

IT'S ABOUT YOUR COACH! COACH KIRIHARA FELL ILL ...

WH...?

THANKS FOR STAYING WITH COACH FOR NOW.

YOU'RE AT MARUYAMA HOSPITAL, RIGHT?

NOT AT ALL

...GOT IT

I'LL LET THE OTHER COACHES KNOW.

YES?

SHŌ.

ABOUT TATSUYA'S TRANSFER

...IT'S STRANGE, NO MATTER HOW YOU CUT IT. TOO SUDDEN.

THAT'S NOT IT!

ARE YOU TELLING ME TO OBEY THE COACH'S OPPRESSIVE ORDERS?

DON'T BOTHER. IT'S USELESS.

I'LL ASK THE COACH ABOUT IT DIRECTLY TOMORROW.

...THERE MUST BE SOME REASON FOR HIM TO FORCE THIS THING.

ALTHOUGH COACH KIRIHARA HAS A DICTATORIAL SIDE TO HIM. .

THERE YOU ARE, KATSURŌ

TAP TAP TAP

...KATSURŌ.

PLEASE TRUST ME.

LOOK, YOU ARE NO. 10 ON MUSASHINOMORI.

IT'S BEEN A WEEK SINCE THEN...

ALL RIGHT

I HEAR COACH KIRIHARA WILL BE BACK NEXT WEEK

YEAH.

WITHOUT HIM, IT ISN'T QUITE RIGHT AROUND HERE. I MISS THE ABUSE.

CAPTAIN.

SEIJI.

THEY'RE UP AGAINST RAKUYŌ. RIGHT?

THAT'S THE TEAM WE PLAYED IN THE DISTRICT FINALS.

PLUS, IT'S BORING TO GET ALL THESE "BY" GAMES IN THE TOURNAMENT I WANNA PLAY

JOSUI HAS THEIR THIRD GAME TODAY.

SEE YOU SOON.

SURE

CLANG

...

PEEP PEEP

THANKS

I'M SURE YOU'VE GOT YOUR HANDS FULL OVER THERE.

AKIRA!

I HOPE I D DN'T . .

HE SAID COACH KIRIHARA FELL LL

WHAT?

WHAT DID SHŌ WANT?

I'LL CONTACT COACH AKAZAWA. W LL YOU CONTACT COACH SAYAMA?

KAT'S-URŌ

C'MON, THE THIRD YEARS HAVE TO HOLD THE TEAM TOGETHER.

COACH KIRIHARA IS FINE.

AFTER THE STORM LAST NIGHT, THE GROUND IS A SOUPY MESS.

WHAT'S WITH THIS WEATHER?

THE TEAM WHO MASTERS HOW TO PLAY IN THE MUD WILL WIN TODAY.

AT THE END OF THE DAY, IT ALL COMES DOWN TO INSTINCT

DON'T WORRY

JOSUI IS LESS EXPERIENCED THAN RAKUYŌ THAT COULD HURT THEM.

...I HEARD THEY SWITCHED TO A DEFENSIVE TRAP STRATEGY TO CHOKE OPPONENTS' GOAL CREATION. IT WORKS PRETTY WELL FOR THEM.

THEY USED TO PLAY A FREE-FLOWING, ATTACKING GAME, BUT AFTER THEY LOST TO US...

SKRIP

THEY'RE PRETTY TOUGH.

EVEN IF WE END UP PLAYING THEM, I'M NOT WORRIED, BUT I REALLY WANT JOSUI TO MAKE IT.

BESIDES...

YEAH, I GUESS THEIR GOAL IS TO BEAT US. THEY'VE BEEN TRAINING HARD FOR IT.

THEIR COACH ALSO DOES HIS RESEARCH.

THEY DON'T HAVE ANY PLAYERS WHO STAND OUT, BUT THEY'RE A TIGHT-KNIT TEAM.

TRUE ENOUGH.

HEH

YOU KNOW, "ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION" TYPES, SOLDIER TYPES, REALLY

.. THE GUYS ON RAKUYŌ ARE MAJOR TOOLS. THEY GET IN YOUR FACE.

I WONDER HOW IT'S WORKING OUT BETWEEN THOSE TWO.

WILL YOU GIVE THIS TO SHŌ TOMORROW?

RUSTLE

LISTEN TO WHAT I HAVE TO SAY.

ARE YOU SNEAKING OUT TO SEE HIM BEHIND MY BACK?

I'M TELLING YOU THIS BECAUSE I'M WORRIED ABOUT YOU.

YOUR DAD ASKED ME NOT TO SAY, BUT ...

WHY?

MOM! WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

THE CHANCE FOR RAIN TODAY IS

...PERCENT AROUND TOKYO AREA

IN THAT SENSE, I THINK SHŌ AND HIS TEAM ARE PRETTY GOOD.

NOT NECESSARILY

HEH. YOU ENJOY IT?

RADIO

DAICHI, WHAT'RE YOU LISTENING TO?

YUP.

AT LEAST THEY WORKED OUT THEIR PROBLEMS

IT'S NOT LIKE WE'RE THAT CLOSE

MUTTER MUTTER

SINCE WHEN DID YOU BECOME FRIENDS?

READ THIS WAY

WOULD YOU HAVE LISTENED TO HIM EVEN IF HE TRIED?

TATS-UYA! HE...

WHY DIDN'T HE TELL ME ABOUT SOMETHING THAT IMPORTANT?!

...FELL ILL LAST WEEK.

YOUR DAD...

I THINK IT MUST'VE BEEN HARD FOR SHŌ TO REMAIN SILENT.

YOUR FATHER MADE BOTH ME AND SHŌ PROMISE NOT TO SAY ANYTHING.

SHŌ HAPPENED BY, AND TOOK HIM TO THE HOSPITAL.

THEN HE CALLED ME.

IT HAPPENED RIGHT AFTER YOU VISITED HIM.

...FELL ILL!?

WHY DID DAD TRY TO KEEP THIS FROM ME?

IF HE DIES IT'S OVER.

I WISH HE WAS DEAD

THAT'S WHY HE GOT SO MAD. THEN

THAT'S WHY...

DON'T YOU GET IT?

HEH HEH

SHŌ TOLD ME NOT TO WORRY ABOUT IT, BUT I HAD TO DO SOMETHING

YOUR DAD FELL AND APPARENTLY THREW UP A LOT OF BLOOD

WHY, DIDN'T SHŌ SAY ANY-THING?

...AND SHŌ'S T-SHIRT GOT BLOODY WHEN HE HELPED HIM UP.

UGH! IT'S MUDDY... LIKE WE THOUGHT!

SHŌ ...

..THAT MAY NOT MAKE THAT MUCH OF A DIFFERENCE, ONE WAY OR THE OTHER.

GWATTLE

GWATTLE

THE RAIN STOPPED, BUT...

CHECK OUT THE CREW CUTS.

RAKUYŌ

SUCH A FOOL, TO BE SO IRRATIONALLY STUBBORN.

YOUR DAD DOESN'T WANT IT TO BE TOLD IN A WAY ...THAT WOULD MAKE YOU SYMPATHIZE WITH HIM.

HE'S SO STUBBORN AND... ... AWKWARD, YOU INHERITED THAT TRAIT FROM HIM.

HE JUST CAN'T SAY THAT HE LOVES YOU.

MOM.

YOU'RE HIS SON AFTER ALL.

IF IT HADN'T BEEN RAINING, RAKUYŌ WOULD'VE WON.

WE LOST TO THEM IN THE FINALS.

SO YOU'RE GUNNING FOR THEM, TOO?

...WE'LL WIN THIS GAME.

SORRY, BUT...

WE WILL NOT BE DEFEATED BY YOU HAPPIES. NO MATTER WHAT

WE WON'T BE LOSING TODAY!

WH.

WE'LL BE THE ONES WHO DEFEAT MUSASHI-NOMORI!

GOOD TO MEET YOU.

I'M TATSUYA, JOSUI'S CAPTAIN

YOU SURE ARE A PRETTY BOY.

I'M KAJIMURA, THE CAPTAIN OF RAKUYŌ. HEY.

HEY, YOU'RE JOSUI, RIGHT?

YUP.

YOU PLAYED MUSASHI-NOMORI AT THE FIRST MATCH OF THE SPRING CHAMPION-SHIP

TURN

WELL, I'D BETTER GET READY

CHILL

HEY SHOULDN'T WASTE THOSE PRETTY BOY LOOKS.

UH. IT'S NOT SOMETHING I THINK ABOUT

I ENVY YOU.

MUST BE POPULAR WITH THE LADIES.

YOU GUYS LOOKING TO DEFEAT MUSASHI-NOMORI, TOO?

WE LOST AGAINST TO THEM, 3 TO 2. A NARROW MARGIN.

THAT COACH IS A FREAK-SHOW. HE'S WEARING A SLEEVE-LESS TEE.

WAS THAT A BULL-HORN?

JOLT

YOU READY ?!

YES!

THERE YOU GO.

DEFENSE

YOU

COME OVER HERE.

EVERY-ONE!

YEAH.

THEY'RE GOOD.

SHŌ!

OSU!

WE HAVE SOME UNFINISHED BUSINESS.

YOU'LL UNDER-STAND WHAT I MEAN WHEN THE GAME STARTS...

SQUUSH

...

...SHO'S A MD-FIELDER!?

TATSUYA'S GONNA BE A STRIKER, AND.

MUTTER

...MAKE SOME POSITION CHANGES.

BEFORE THE GAME STARTS, I'M GOING TO ALTER THE ROSTER AND..

Y... YES!

IPPEI, YOU TAKE HIS SPOT

WHAT!?

FOR RIGHT WING, IN PLACE OF MAGATO.

ME?

CHATTER

IMPOSSIBLE! HOW CAN I REPLACE TATSUYA ...!?

WHAT'S COACH THINKING?

WHAT!?

...AND SHŌ GOES TO MID-FIELD.

WH...

TATSUYA GOES UP TO THE STRIKER SPOT...

YOU KNOW...

BY THE END OF THE FIRST HALF, THE RAIN SHOULD BE REALLY COMING DOWN.

LADS?

...WHAT THAT MEANS, RIGHT?

EXCELLENT WEATHER.

YES, SIR!

GRIN

I'M SURE YOU CAN DO IT.

DON'T WORRY!

BUT ...!

HMM?

GOOD JOB, MATSU-SHITA.

LOOKS LIKE THIS S GONNA BE FUN.

ISN'T THAT..!?

STAGE.70

State of Heart, State of Sky

THIS IS THE START OF THE THIRD GAME: RAKUYŌ JUNIOR HIGH VS. JOSUI JUNIOR HIGH.

TWEE

RAKUYŌ KICKS OFF!

The Horror

WEE-STLE! THEATRE!!

MANGA BY **SEKI** ASSISTANT S

WHAT'S UP, KŌ?

HUH?

JOSU VICTORY

SHŌ'S IN A DIFFERENT POSITION THAN USUAL.

I THOUGHT SOMETHING WAS ODD.

SKOOSH

!

HMM?

SHOOM

WHAT!?

SHOOM

COACH ...

GLANCE

GLANCE

WHADDA WE DO, COACH?

WHAT'S GOING ON? ISN'T NO. 10 AT MIDFIELD?

HE'S A STRIKER ?!

WAKE UP, IT'S THEIR THROW IN!

YES, SIR!

JOLT

JOLT

DON'T LOUNGE AROUND!

DIDN'T EXPECT HE'D PULL A POSITION CHANGE RIGHT BEFORE THE GAME..

CAUGHT ME WITH MY PANTS DOWN!

WHOOSH

ARGH

FOOMP

VIPP

TUUMP

OH NO...

SPLISH

AH.

READ THIS WAY

THEY MEANT TO SMOTHER TATSUYA AND TRASH JOSUI'S OFFENSE. BUT THE POSITION CHANGE DESTROYED THEIR PLAN.

USUALLY, JOSUI'S OFFENSE PATTERN USES TATSUYA AT MIDFIELD AS THE STARTING POINT OF THEIR OFFENSE

ONCE RAKUYŌ'S RHYTHM IS BROKEN, IT'LL TAKE THEM 10 TO 15 MINUTES TO RECOVER.

RAKUYŌ CAN PERFORM WHAT THEY'RE TAUGHT PERFECTLY WELL, BUT IT LOOKS LIKE THEY CAN'T THINK ON THEIR FEET.

...IF THIS IS JUST A MAKESHIFT STRATEGY, WHAT WILL YOU DO ONCE THE OPPONENT'S CONFUSION DISAPPEARS?

BUT ...

THE REST ...

WHILE THEY'RE CONFUSED, THEY PROBABLY WON'T BE ABLE TO ATTACK VERY WELL. SINCE OUR DEFENSE IS PRETTY FIRM RIGHT NOW, WE'LL PROBABLY MAKE IT THROUGH THE FIRST HALF

JOSUI'S COACH DOES A PRETTY GOOD JOB.

JUST BY DOING THE POSITION CHANGE, HE PUSHED THE OPPONENT INTO CONFUSION

BAMP

AH!

BIP

SLOSH

IDIOTS! WHAT'RE YOU DOING?!

SLOSH SLOSH

RAKUYŌ'S PRETTY SCREWED UP.

FIND YOUR MARKS! DO WHAT I TAUGHT YOU!

SH OOM

ONE MARK BEHIND SHIGEKI.

TATSUYA HAS DOUBLE COVERAGE.

FOO MP

TO SHIGEKI, THEN!

AH!

RAKUYŌ HAS INTERCEPTED!

... DEPENDS ON WHETHER SHŌ CAN EVOLVE INTO A MIDFIELDER.

DON'T KNOW WHAT COACH IS THINKING ..

SKKRRR BIPP

AND JOSUI RETURNS THE FAVOR.

ONCE AGAIN, THE BALL IS SENT TO NO 9!

SM AP

THE DEFENSE HAS GOTTA HOLD 'EM OFF.

.. BUT UNTIL THE FRONTLINE SETTLES DOWN

TOGM

READ THIS WAY

I'VE GOT IT

IF I KICK THE SAME WAY AS USUAL, IT WON'T GET THERE.

OH NO! THE BALL'S WATER-LOGGED.

THEY JUST SWAPPED NO. 10 AND NO. 9. THEIR OFFENSE WORKS THE SAME AS ALWAYS!!

MARK NO. 9!

SHOO

SKOO SH

SPLUT

ALL RIGHT.

TRIP

BIP

WHAT THE HECK?

AH!

BOOMP

BIP

THIS IS BAD!

STOP THEM!

BOOMP

BOOMP

TIP

ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS TO IS BEAT UP ON NO. 9 INSTEAD!

IT'S JUST THE PEOPLE THAT'RE CHANGED. THEY STILL PERFORM THE SAME ROLE

I SEE!

5 CHARGE 6

CRUNCH

CRUNCH

CRUNCH

WHUMP

I'LL STOP HIM NO MATTER WHAT!!

...DO OUR BEST!

BOOMP

. .WE MUST

TO SUPPORT SHŌ.

SKYFAKR

SLIP

YOWW!

TEETER

DENIED!

DASH

DASH

CH

SKIPP

AAH.

DAICHI !!

...
MYSELF, NOW.

I NEED TO STEP UP...

HERE IT COMES.

DRIP

WIPE WIPE

BING

DAICHI!

HIRO-YOSHI!

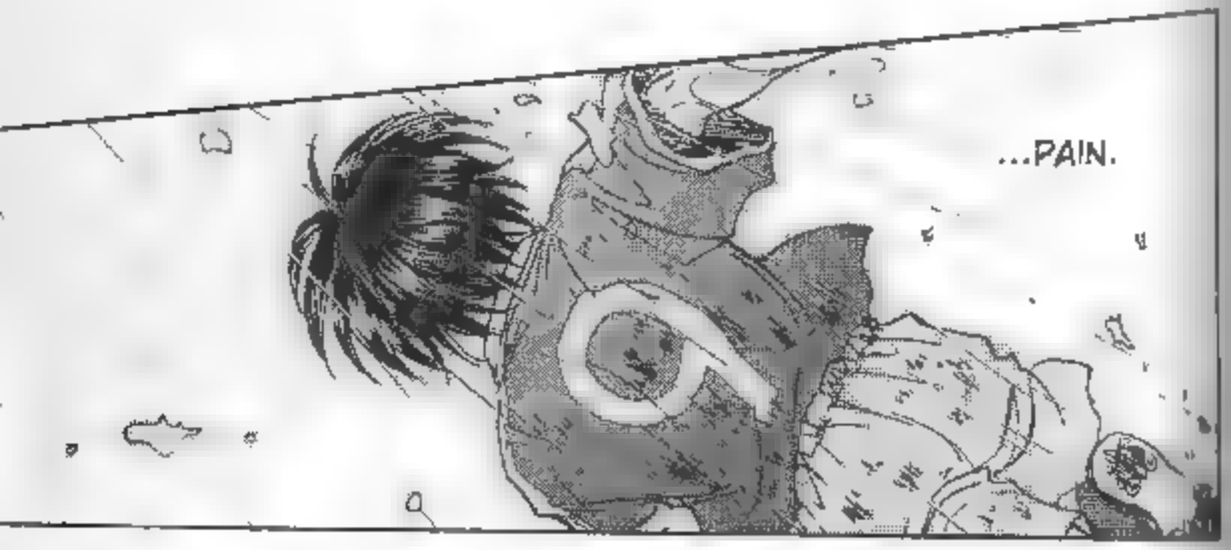
TOO OOW

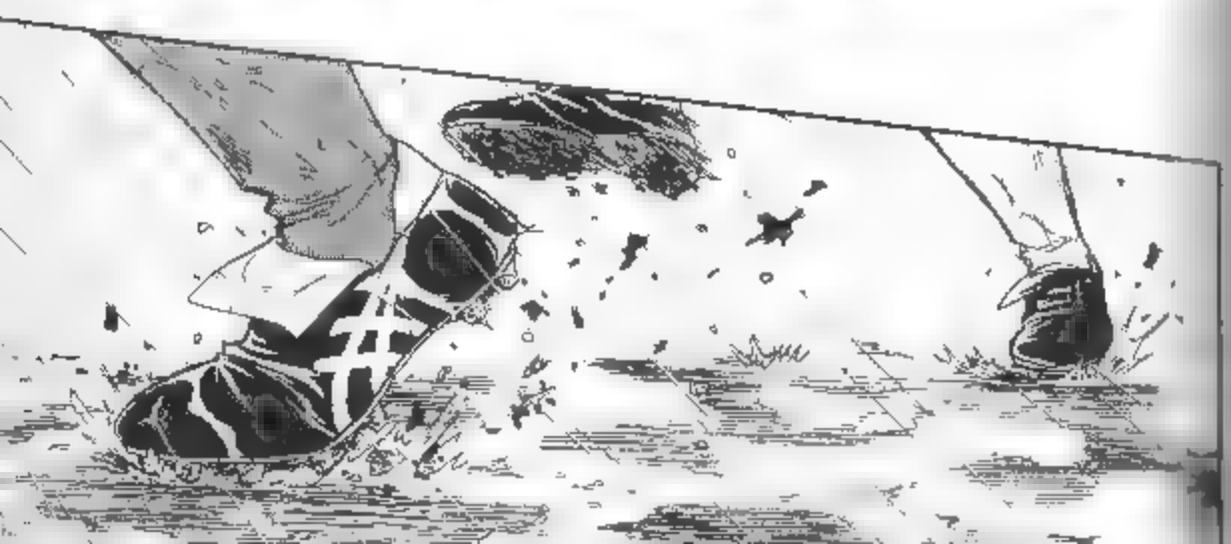
GOOD!

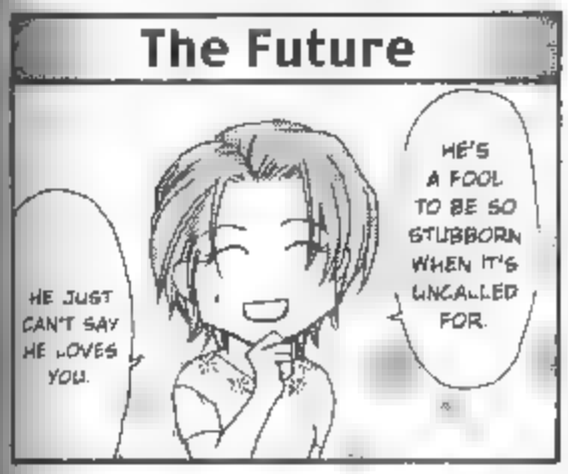
ALMOST HAD IT

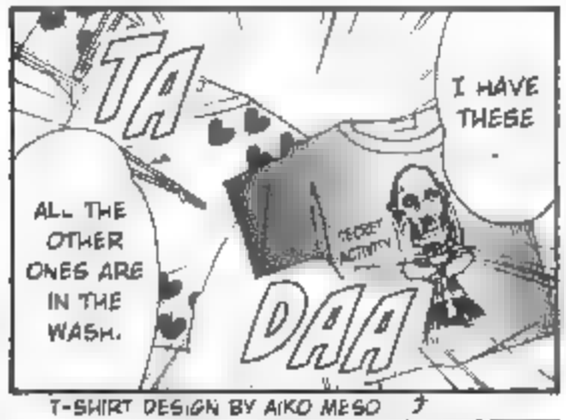
DANG!

STAGE.71 First Half Over









T-SHIRT DESIGN BY AIKO MESO

PLEASE HUM THE THEME SONG FROM THE JAPANESE MELODRAMA "KK NO KUNI KARA" AS YOU READ THIS

TATSUYA

I DIDN'T REALIZE

HUMP

OOF!

SPLASH!

!

HAD TO DEAL WITH THIS MUCH PAIN.

ALWAYS

ALWAYS.

HE IGNORED THE PAIN.

...AND REMAINED CALM.

HE SENT

THE BALL FORWARD.

BO OMP

WITHOUT FAIL.

I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND..

AH!

ZH O O M

FELT..

..THIS...

...ALL ALONE.

DOESN'T SOUJI GET THAT?

SGGHHH

HE'S TOTALLY CONFUSED

SWITCHING POSITIONS WON'T MAKE HIM CHANGE THE WAY HE PLAYS. HE'S NOT THAT ADAPTABLE.

WHAT?

SGGHHH

I BET HE'S TRYING TO TEACH HIM

HE'S ACKNOWLEDGING SHO AND THE REST AS GOOD PLAYERS.

HE DOESN'T LOOK IT, BUT SOUJI'S PRETTY TOUGH.

ESPECIALLY TOWARD PLAYERS HE KNOWS ARE CAPABLE.

HE MIGHT BE EXPECTING TOO MUCH, THOUGH.

...ANYTHING ABOUT TATSUYA AT ALL.

EQUIP

OH, NO.

SGGHHH

BOOM

OH NO

ARGH.

SHOOM

HIDEOMI! COMIN' IN AT FOUR O'CLOCK!

ZOOM

GOOD.

...LET THE RAIN BEAT YOU?

ARE YOU SO WEAK THAT YOU'LL...

C'MON, EVERYONE.

LET'S SEE HOW TOUGH YOU ARE.

SHOW ME WHAT YOU'RE MADE OF!

AH.

SPUTTER

AHH.

JOGU! NO. 9 IS DRIBBLING.

BUT...HE LOST THE BALL IN THE MUD!

SWOOSH

NO GOOD!

BECAUSE OF THE RAIN IT DIDN'T ROLL FAR ENOUGH

SPLAT

SPLAT!

WHIST

FOOM

SLOOSH

I'D BETTER PUNCH IT

CAN'T MAKE IT IN TIME

WHOOSH

CHUK

EVERY-ONE, OVER HERE!

RAKUYŌ, FORM UP!

GSSHHHH

MARIKO

THE RAIN CAN'T BE GOOD FOR YOU IN YOUR WEAKENED CONDITION.

VIP

FOOOSH

RAKUYŌ GOAL!

IT'S 1 TO 0, AND THE FIRST HALF IS OVER!

THAT'S HOW YOU DO IT!

TWEE

TWEE

TWEE

THAT SHOULD GIVE YOU THE USUAL DISTANCE

I'M GETTING A FEEL FOR IT

WHEN YOU CLEAR THE BALL, KICK IT TWICE AS HARD AS NORMAL.

EVERY-ONE'S TRYING HARD. THEY BELIEVE IN YOU AND TATSUYA.

IT'S NOT LIKE WE'VE LOST YET. SHOW SOME BACKBONE!

SKRRP SKRRP

WE WON'T LET THEM SCORE AGAIN!

SHŌ!

LOOK AT THEM

IN GENERAL, WHEN THE REPLACEABLE CLEATS AND MOLDED CLEATS ARE COMPARED, REPLACEABLE ONES HAVE FEWER STUDS AND WORK BETTER ON SOFT GROUND

I SEE. THEY'RE FULLY PREPARED FOR THE RAIN

THEY'RE GOING TO CHANGE INTO NEW CLEATS

EVERYONE, CHANGE YOUR CLEATS!

WHAT? WHY?

EVERYONE, TAKE OFF YOUR CLEATS!

BUT IT'S NOT LIKE WE HAVEN'T PLANNED, EITHER!

JUST HURRY UP AND DO IT!

YEAH

MS KATORI, WILL YOU HELP US TOO?

YUKI

YES!

WE'LL GET IT DONE DURING HALF TIME!

Y.. YES

C'MON, JUST TAKE OFF YOUR SPIKES!

DON'T WORRY ABOUT US JUST FOCUS ON RESTING!

SCRRRP

DAD.

...IT'S OKAY TO USE JUST FOR TODAY, RIGHT?

DAD, PLEASE WAKE UP!

SHŌ JUST A SEC.

AND PRANCING AROUND DON'T GET BEATEN BY THESE PANSIES

BRINGING WOMEN

BOO-YAH!

PLEASE TAKE THE FIELD

TIME FOR THE SECOND HALF

C'MON, WAKE UP!

SLAP

WHAT AM I DOING?

I WAS THINKING ONLY OF MYSELF AND DIDN'T NOTICE ANYTHING AROUND ME

SHŌ! GIVE ME YOUR CLEATS

THOSE ARE REPLACE-ABLE STUD CLEATS

HEY!

I'M NOT WORTHY OF SOMETHING LIKE THIS YET BUT

OH YEAH, YOU BOUGHT THEM WHEN WE WENT SHOPPING THE OTHER DAY

I'VE WAITED MY WHOLE LIFE.

.. I'M JUST WAITING?

WHEN SHŌ AND THE OTHERS ARE FIGHTING.

BOMP

TWEE

JOSUI, KICK OFF!

WHEN I WAS WITH THE PREVIOUS SOCCER TEAM. . EVEN WHEN SHIGEKI LEFT THE SQUAD.

FOR MY PARENTS.

I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING MYSELF.

I ALWAYS HOPED IT WOULD AL.. WORK OUT, BUT .

THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO, I SAID THAT'S HOW IT IS

.A PATH THAT CONNECTS ME AND TATSUYA, THE STRIKER.

I NEED TO KEEP MY EYES OPEN AND SEARCH OUT.

WHAT AM I DOING?

HOW DO I OPEN THE PATH?

IF I DON'T SEE THE PATH, I NEED TO CREATE IT

IF THE BALL IS TOO HEAVY...

IF THE GROUND IS IN BAD CONDITION, I NEED TO DRIBBLE AN EXTRA STEP!

...KICK IT A LOT HARDER!

GET AS CLOSE AS POSSIBLE...

...KICK HARDER AND HARDER.

C'MON, PLEASE ...!

...AND I DIDN'T WANT TO BE HURT.

BECAUSE I DIDN'T WANT TO FAIL...

IF I DON'T DO ANYTHING...

A GAME FOR THE POSITION OF CAPTAIN.

...NOTHING CHANGES, BUT...

WHY?

YOU OKAY WITH THAT, TATSUYA MIZUNO?

...AND TURNED AWAY.

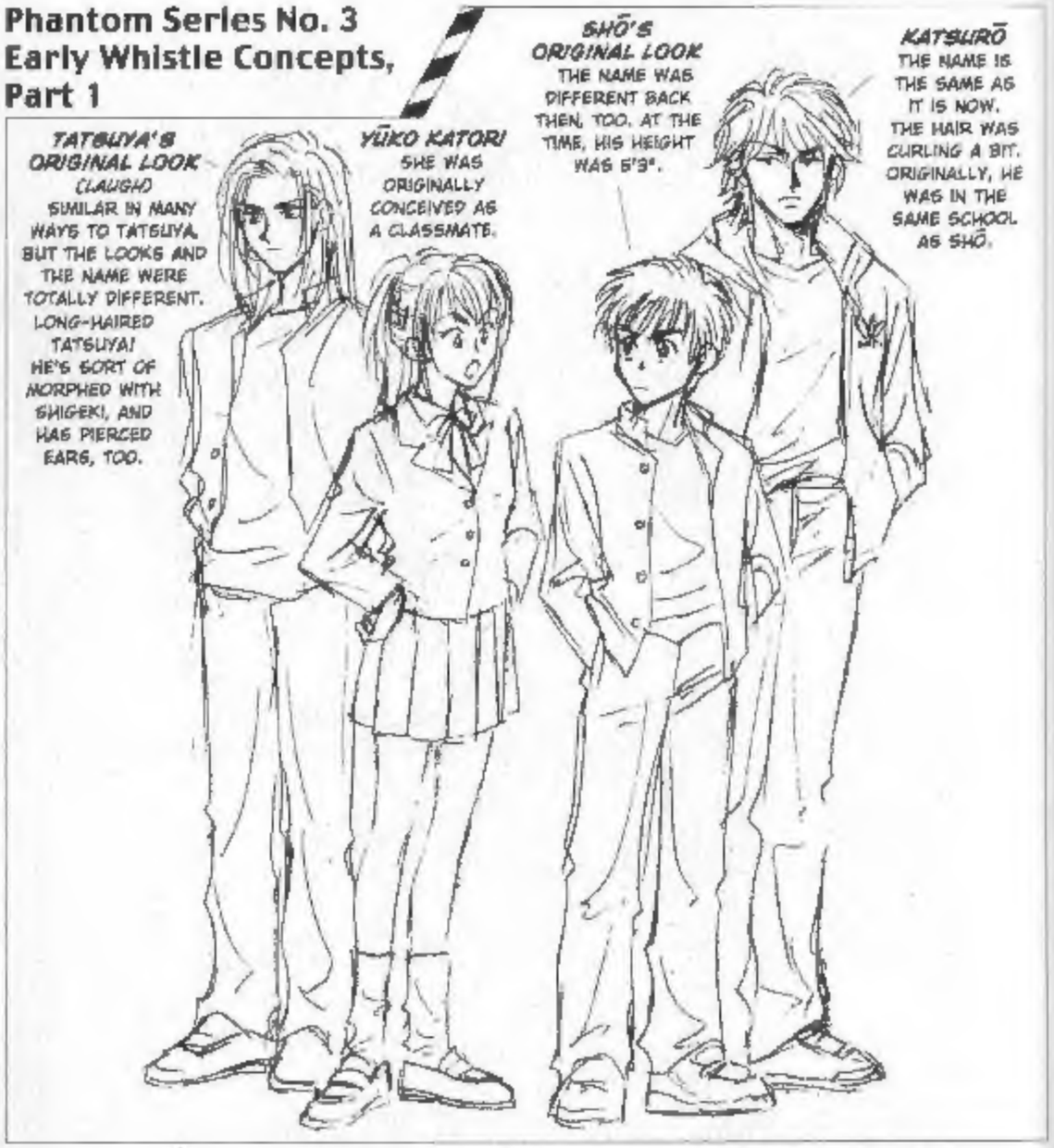
...DESPITE THAT, I LEFT MATTERS TO OTHER PEOPLE...

GOAL

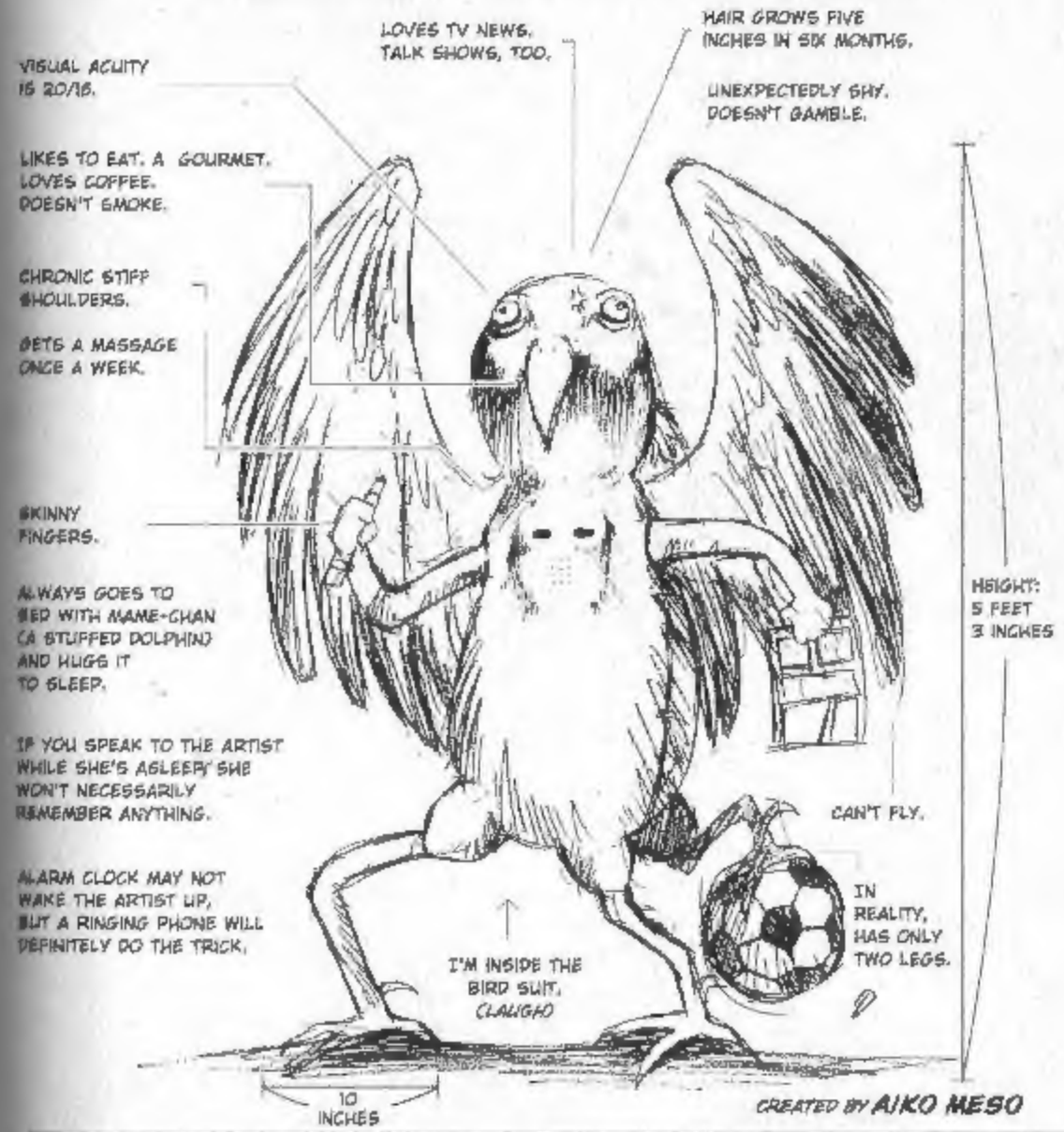
...GET THIS BALL TO TATSUYA!

8 RAIN CATS AND DOGS (The End)

Phantom Series No. 3 Early Whistle Concepts, Part 1


TATSUYA'S ORIGINAL LOOK
(LAUGH)
SIMILAR IN MANY WAYS TO TATSUYA, BUT THE LOOKS AND THE NAME WERE TOTALLY DIFFERENT. LONG-HAIRED TATSUYA! HE'S SORT OF MORPHED WITH SHIGEKI, AND HAS PIERCED EARS, TOO.
YŪKO KATORI
SHE WAS ORIGINALLY CONCEIVED AS A CLASSMATE.
SHŌ'S ORIGINAL LOOK
THE NAME WAS DIFFERENT BACK THEN, TOO. AT THE TIME, HIS HEIGHT WAS 5'3".
KATSURŌ
THE NAME IS THE SAME AS IT IS NOW. THE HAIR WAS CURLING A BIT. ORIGINALLY, HE WAS IN THE SAME SCHOOL AS SHŌ.

DAISUKE HIGUCHI MONSTER BODY BIBLE


VISUAL ACUITY IS 20/18.
LOVES TV NEWS, TALK SHOWS, TOO.
HAIR GROWS FIVE INCHES IN SIX MONTHS.
UNEXPECTEDLY SHY. DOESN'T GAMBLE.
LIKES TO EAT. A GOURMET. LOVES COFFEE. DOESN'T SMOKE.
CHRONIC STIFF SHOULDERS.
GETS A MASSAGE ONCE A WEEK.
SKINNY FINGERS.
ALWAYS GOES TO BED WITH MAME-CHAN (A STUFFED DOLPHIN) AND HUGS IT TO SLEEP.
IF YOU SPEAK TO THE ARTIST WHILE SHE'S ASLEEP, SHE WON'T NECESSARILY REMEMBER ANYTHING.
ALARM CLOCK MAY NOT WAKE THE ARTIST UP, BUT A RINGING PHONE WILL DEFINITELY DO THE TRICK.
HEIGHT: 5 FEET 3 INCHES
CAN'T FLY.
IN REALITY, HAS ONLY TWO LEGS.
I'M INSIDE THE BIRD SUIT. (LAUGH)
10 INCHES

CREATED BY **AIKO MESO**

Birthday	May 10, 19XX	Favorite Artists & Songs	B'Z, Ringo Shiina, Miyuki Nakajima (LIN, Girl Girl Chop (← this one is more recent)
Blood Type	A	Origin of the Pen Name	Higuchi is a real name. Daisuke is from Daisuke Ijuin of Kaoru Kurimoto
Hobby	Visiting bookstores	Family Structure	Dad, Mom, younger bro, younger bro's wife, more than two dogs. Higuchi lives alone.
Special Skills	Ability to fall asleep instantly (within 30 seconds), anywhere	Favorite Actors	Kichiemon Nakamura, Koji Yakusho, Keizo Kanie, Sean Connery
Favorite Food	Potatoes	Favorite Movies	Western Film: Terminator Japanese Film: Yojimbo
Food Disliked	Rakkyo (onion-like vegetable), Hanpen (fish cake)	Favorite Comedy	Ucchan-Nanchan
Dislikes	Ganguro Girls	Completely bewitched by	Gundam. Gundam fever is back!!
Favorite Soccer Players	Gon-chan, a.k.a. Masashi Nakayama (Jubilo Iwata), Mitsuo Ogasawara, Masashi Motoyama (Kashima Antlers), Tomoyuki Sakai, Takenori Hayashi (JEF United Ichihara), Kota Yoshiwara (Consadole Sapporo)		

COMPILED BY **ASSISTANT 5**

THE REAL ACTION STARTS IN...

SHONEN JUMP

THE WORLD'S MOST POPULAR MANGA

www.shonenjump.com

FREE PREVIEW ISSUE! of SHONEN JUMP Magazine!

SHONEN JUMP Magazine: Contains Yu-Gi-Oh!, One Piece, Naruto, Shaman King, YuYu Hakusho and other HOT manga - STORIES NEVER SEEN IN THE CARTOONS!
Plus, get the latest on what's happening in trading cards, video games, toys and more!

Check out this ultra cool magazine for FREE! Then when you decide you must have SHONEN JUMP every month we will send you 11 more issues (12 in all) for only $29.95. A Price so low it's like getting 6 issues FREE!

But that's not all: You'll also become a member of the SJ Sub Club with your paid subscription!

50% OFF the cover price!

SJ SUB CLUB Benefits!

Access to exclusive Sub Club only areas of www.SHONENJUMP.com

Your Issues Delivered First

Cool Gifts Included With Some Issues

Get your FREE Preview Issue!

SHONEN JUMP Magazine — the blockbuster English-language version of Japan's #1 action comic book every month features 300+ pages of the hottest manga titles available in the U.S. Plus the latest on what's happening in cards, and video games, toys and more!

YES! Send me my **FREE** preview issue of **SHONEN JUMP** Magazine. If I like it I will enjoy 11 more issues (12 in all) for ONLY **$29.95**. **That's 50% OFF the cover price!**

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY STATE ZIP

E-MAIL ADDRESS

☐ MY CHECK IS ENCLOSED ☐ BILL ME LATER

Make checks payable to: **SHONEN JUMP**. Canada add US $12. No foreign orders. Credit card payments made SECURE & EASY at **www.SHONENJUMP.com**

Allow 6-8 weeks for delivery.

PSSGN7

YU GI OH! © 1996 by Kazuki Takahashi / SHUEISHA Inc.

www.shonenjump.com

Next in Whistle!

NOBODY IS PERFECT

You've got to put your personal differences aside or it could cost you the game. Shô and Tatsuya manage to smooth out a bit of personal friction that arose between them, but they're still right in the middle of the game against tenacious Rakuyô. Josui manages to tie it up, but will they be able to squeak out a victory in the PK shootout?!

Available January 2006!